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Daily Number Of Departures Believed Rising

Mansfield Attacks G.O.P. Accusations Against Kennedy

By the Associated Press

The Soviet Union appears to be slowly withdrawing some of its troops from Cuba, informed sources said today.

But if Russia intends to make good on its pledge to pull out several thousand troops by mid-March the bulk on them have yet to go according to the best available information here.

Informed authorities said daily reports come in on ship sailings from Cuba and that apparently a few more troops are leaving every day.

Await Kennedy Report

Some officials suggested that perhaps President Kennedy would be able to pull together the latest reports in time for a news conference scheduled for 11 a.m. tomorrow. But there could be a delay if figures still are in doubt.

Senate Democratic Leader Mansfield, meanwhile, challenged Republican contentions that Mr. Kennedy has misled the public and has denied congressional leaders intelligence information on Cuba.

Senator Mansfield said in an interview today that Representative Arends, Republican of Illinois, had impugned the President's patriotism by charging Mr. Kennedy knew before October 14 the Russians were installing offensive missiles on the island.

He Knows Better

Of Mr. Arends' charge—made last night at a G. O. P. political rally in St. Petersburg, Fla.—that the administration is not "telling the full story of Cuba" at closed door briefings of leaders of both parties, Senator Mansfield had this reply:

"This Congressman knows better than that. He has attended these meetings and I don't recall that he ever raised any questions or expressed any doubts."

Senator Mansfield also accused Senator Keating, Republican of New York, of "setting up a trap" for the President by backhandedly telling the

Senate yesterday there have been "deliberate attempts" to suppress intelligence information.

"Not true," Senator Mansfield said to Senator Keating's charge that efforts are under way to make intelligence agencies the "scapegoat" for what happened in Cuba.

Cites AF Action

Mr. Arends, the deputy House Republican leader and member of the Armed Services Committee, said Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Germy had testified that the Air Force "went to high gear to support the Cuban plan on the 10th of October." This was four days before Mr. Kennedy said he had received the first hard information on offensive missile sites.

"The lords of the Kennedy dynasty have put into effect a system for controlling the news so that we can learn only what they want us to know," Mr. Arends said.

Senator Mansfield said it was true that prior to the President's action clamping a quarantine on Cuba, Marines were moving toward the Caribbean, the Strategic Air Command had been put on an extraordinary alert, the Navy was put on a wartime basis and the Army was alerted with many elements placed in a state of wartime readiness.

Rebuts Charges

"But I am not at all sure that the administration has not been telling the truth of Cuba at leadership meetings," he said. "It is not true."

"The facts on missile sites and range have been given as well as where the information came from and when."

"This Congressman had the opportunity to raise questions and by recollection that he was

remarkably silent. I don't think this kind of criticism is conducive to the national unity we need to meet a threat that confronts Republicans and Democrats alike."

Reports from Havana that 2,000 Russians left Cuba last Friday on a Soviet liner were described in some official quarters as considerably inflated. Nobody was providing a firm estimate but guesses ran in the neighborhood of 200 to 400. The Havana dispatches also said it was impossible to tell whether the departing Russians were troops, technicians or civilians.

The administration has estimated that the Soviet military personnel on Cuba numbers 17,000.

Testimony yesterday that Navy officials don't know how many Russians have been withdrawn from the island drew a sharp comment from Senator Russell, Democrat of Georgia.

"I'd be less than frank if I didn't say that the amount of hard intelligence from Cuba has been disappointing," Senator Russell told reporters.

Korth, Anderson Testify

Senator Russell, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, made his views known after hearing testimony at a closed hearing from Secretary of the Navy Fred Korth and Admiral George W. Anderson, chief of Navy Operations.

Senator Keating, in his Senate speech, said there had been no "intelligence gap" last summer and fall when the Russians were moving equipment into Cuba. He said reliable reports indicated John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, had warned as early as last August that the Soviets probably would put offensive missiles on the island.

"We do suffer, however, from unwillingness of our top officials to believe what our intelligence produces from deliberate attempts to gloss over facts revealed by our intelligence and in some instances deliberate attempts to suppress information entirely," Senator Keating said.

Senator Mansfield said there had been "no withholding of intelligence information and no attempt to make a scapegoat out of the intelligence agencies."